

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested. Claims 1-4 are now pending in the present application, claim 5 having been cancelled by the present Amendment. Claims 1-4 were rejected. Claim 5 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of base claim 1 and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to include, *inter alia*, the features of allowable claim 5. Accordingly, claim 1 should now be in condition for allowance.

Telephonic Interview

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner, Mr. Hsiao, and his Supervisor, Mr. Siconolfi, for the courtesies extended to applicants' representative during the telephonic interview conducted on June 23, 2010. During the course of the interview, arguments traversing the rejection of claim 1 in view of the **Akeno** and **Michioka** references were presented. Moreover, during the course of the interview clarifying amendments to claim 1 were proposed. However, no agreement was reached.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over **Akeno** (JP 07-181275, previously cited) in view of **Michioka et al.** (USP 6,155,717, previously cited).

In view of the amendment to claim 1 to include the features of allowable claim 5, it is submitted that claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and claims 2-4 are allowable by virtue of their dependency on claim 1. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1-4 under 103 is no longer applicable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection and an indication of allowability of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that there are issues remaining to be resolved in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite and complete prosecution of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
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